

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 175795

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

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VIENNA FOR EWTC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BU, BE

SUBJ: PLOVDIV FAIR 1974 REQUEST FOR SHIPPING ASSISTANCE,
CHARLES MACHINE WORKS, INC., PERRY, OKLAHOMA

1. SUBJECT FIRM IS MAJOR EXHIBITOR USDOC PLOVDIV FAIR
PAVILION. IT HAS REPORTED FOLLOWING PROBLEM IN BELGIUM
AND WE URGE STRONGEST ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF OUR TRADE
PROMOTION EFFORT.

2. FIRM STATES BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE, DITCH WITCH
CONTINENTAL, BOOMSESTEERWEG 38, B-2630 AARSTELAAR
RECEIVED 3 PIECES TRENCHING EQUIPMENT FOR PLOVDIV WHICH
ITS SHIPPER ERRONEOUSLY CLEARED INTO BELGIAN CUSTOMS
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PAGE 02 STATE 175795

INSTEAD OF IN-TRANSIT. SHIPPER CLAIMS THAT GOODS

MUST BE RETURNED TO BELGIUM AFTER FAIR AND INSISTS ON
ROUND TRIP FREIGHT COSTS WITH ABOUT 20 DAYS WAITING TIME
IN BULGARIA.

3. THIS UNNECESSARY EXPENSE WILL AMOUNT TO OVER \$15,000,
AND IS JEOPARDIZING USDOC EXHIBIT AS WELL AS FIRM'S GOOD
FAITH. IN ADDITION WE HAVE STRONG ASSURANCES THAT EQUIPMENT
WILL BE SOLD IN BULGARIA SO THAT NEED TO RETURN TO
BELGIUM COULD SERIOUSLY HAMPER SALES EFFORTS.

4. FIRM HAS BEEN ADVISED TO HAVE AGENT CALL ON EMBASSY
BRUSSELS FOR ASSISTANCE. AS FAR AS KNOWN CUSTOMS NOT YET
PAID AND WE SUGGEST OFFICLA INTERCESSION WITH APPROPRIATE
BELGIUM AUTHORITIES TO CHANGE DESIGNATION OF GOODS TO IN-
TRANSIT STATUS. IF NOT POSSIBLE THE WE REQUEST ASSISTANCE
FOR FIRM IN GETTING CUSTOMS DRAWDRAW WHEN EXPORTED BUT
URGE FIRST PROCEDURE BE PURSUED STRONGLY. GOODS MUST BE IN
PLOVDIV AUGUST 24.

5. WE SUSPECT SHIPPER MAY BE BILKING FIRM INTO GETTING FEE
FOR RETURN OF GOODS INSTEAD OF SIMPLE ONE-WAY SHIPMENT.

KISSINGER

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